**Impact of COVID-19 epidemic on Africa RISING-WA Project activities**

**WA Project Principal Investigators’ views on the impact of COVID-19 to their activities**

**Bekele Kotu (IITA-Ghana)**

Household surveys on farmers’ preferences for technology attributes (Sub-activity GH 4113-19). This had been planned for implementation in March/April but has been postponed till a later unknown date. It would be good to implement before the cropping season since during the cropping season the farmers would be too busy to attend interviews. There is a possibility to implement in August. **Low risk of not being conducted**

**Nurudeen Abdul Rahman (IITA, Ghana)**

Optimizing on-farm nitrogen (N) fertilizer use efficiency (Sub-activity GH1112-19): Most field activities were completed during the last quarter of 2019. However both soil and plant samples from the experimental work are yet to be analysed at the Soils Research Institute (SRI). The samples cannot be sent for the chemical analysis due to the lockdown situation in Ghana which has affected SRI. Once the lockdown is over, after submission, it takes about 6 weeks for the results to be released (all other factors remaining constant). In brief, the activity will take place but at a later date. **Low risk of not being conducted**

**Gundula Fischer (IITA-Ghana)**

Farmer preferences for vegetable varieties (Sub-activity MA1114-19) for Mali: Need to follow-up with specific focus on cowpea and onion (was planned for April 2020). This has been postponed to a later date pending national guidelines. In case field work is not conducted until August this will be cancelled. Implication: An amount of around 10k will remain unused. **Medium to high risk of not being conducted.**

**Francis Muthoni (IITA, Arusha, Tanzania)**

Work on using remote sensing and GIS to predict timing of sowing for crop and work on cowpea living mulch (Sub-activity GH1111-19): Had expected to engage one MSC student from KNUST to undertake research to spatial-temporal trends of start and length of the seasons that can guide timing of planting. The university is currently closed due to COVID-19 situation. With restricted movements the fieldwork around farmer interviews will be delayed. **Medium to high risk of not being conducted.**

Teamintended to hire a consultant to help on system dynamics modelling of cowpea living mulch but one of the potential candidates could not take the task citing reduced mobility due to COVID-19 pandemic. We continue with planning and looking for alternatives. One possible adaptation is to postpone planned activities in the TOR that would require a consultant to travel on-site to Ghana. **High risk of not being conducted**

**Augustine Ayantunde (ILRI- Ghana and Mali)**

All livestock-related activities in Mali were unaffected by COVID.

Sub-activity GH1121-19 (Feed Troughs) and Sub-activity GH3111-19 (Small ruminant value chains). For the sub-activity on improved feed troughs, data collection for all seasons has been collected. However, the monitoring of the modifications made to the improved feed troughs and adoption will be affected as all field activities are currently suspended by both ILRI and CSIR. The lab analysis of the feed and faecal samples will also be affected. The technical report on the use of improved feed troughs is being prepared. **Medium to high risk of not being conducted**

For the sub-activity on strengthening small ruminant value chain in Northern Ghana, the R4DP meeting in Wa, Upper West Region has to be postponed because of the restrictions. However, most of the planned activities have been carried out and the reports are underway. **Medium to high risk of not being conducted**

**Jeroen Groot (WUR)**

Matching agricultural technologies to farms and their context (Sub-activity GH4311-19): The software engineer working on the FarmMATCH algorithm has symptoms, although he has not been diagnosed with the disease yet. He has not been available for work during the last 4 weeks. There might be some delays, but it is not yet clear what the final impact of these COVID-19 related constraints will be. Once restrictions are lifted and consultant regains health, this will resume. In summary, there is still a lot of uncertainty around this activity. **Low to** **Medium risk of not being conducted.**

**Katrien Descheemaeker (WUR)**

Risk management and informed decision making towards sustainable intensification of crop-livestock systems (Sub-activity MA1131-19): Most tasks around this activity have been concluded except the one with feedback sessions with farmers which is still planned for August 2020. **Low risk**

**Eva Thuijsman (WUR)**

Assessing buffer and adaptive capacity to harness the resilience of different farm types (Sub-activity GH 1211-19). Activities were planned for September – November 2020. Now that travel is restricted, these were postponed until travel is possible again, potentially field work in Ghana needs to be postponed until next year. **Low risk**

**Zenebe Adimassu (IWMI)**

Evaluate the technical and agronomic performance of Bhungroo and solar-energy drip irrigation systems (Sub-activity GH1221-19): Planning to collect soil samples after harvesting of vegetables in April 2020. The soil samples will be submitted to SARI for laboratory analysis. If travel restrictions are not lifted, it is difficult to perform this activity. **Medium to high risk of not being conducted**

**Jean Baptiste Tignegre (World Vegetable Center)**

* Sub-activity MA1114-19 (Mali) & Sub-activity GH1115-19 and GH1116-19 (Ghana): Training on post-harvest & processing practices as well as Farmers’ participatory variety and selection of post-harvest storage options: This activity coincides with harvest time (March to April 2020). The ZECC system is not suitable for postponement and implementation in the next rainy season. COVID-19 confinement requirements do not allow groups of farmers (difficult to comply with safe distance recommended)**- High Risk of not being conducted**
* Sub-activity MA2221-19 (Mali) & Sub-activity GH1111-19 (Ghana): Second round of implementing post-harvest trials. This should be implemented in Bougouni (Mali) Duko and Nyangua (Ghana); vegetable fruits and leaves are currently available in the field for harvest and use in the tests from mid- March to end mid-April 2020. COVID-19 confinement requirements do not allow groups of farmers (difficult to comply with safe distance recommended). **High risk of not being conducted**

**Felix Badolo (ICRISAT)**

Determine farmers’ preferences of technology attributes in cereal-legume systems (MA4111-19) and GH4113-19 (Activities in Ghana that will be affected by COVID-19 has been provided for Bekele Kotu’s work). This study is being conducted in both Ghana and Mali and requires two types of data: experimental data and household data. Experiment data was collected in February in Mali, and the household data were planned for the month of May 2020. But given the restrictions related to COVID-19, the team is obliged to postpone this survey.

It would be very difficult to conduct this survey if the restrictions related to COVID-19 are not lifted. The deliverable entirely depends on this survey. The results obtained from focus group discussion conducted in February 2020 will be used for the implementation of this survey. **Medium to High risk of not being conducted**

**Wilson Agyare (KNUST)**

Assess the impact of soil and water conservation interventions in a maize - cowpea living mulch system (Sub-activity GH1212-19). All field activities are completed. Soil samples from the experimental work were submitted to the Soils Research Institute (SRI) for chemical analysis. Unless the results are received back from SRI, pending manuscript can’t be completed. **Low to No Risk**

**Adams Abdulai (STEPRI)**

Socio-economic analyses of selected SI technologies/practices (Sub-activity GH4111-19): Proceedings and synthesis of stakeholder knowledge sharing and validation workshop organized by July 2020. Stakeholder validation workshop likely to be affected if the ban on public gatherings/ meetings is not lifted on time. **Low to medium risk of not being conducted**